



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE FORMER PRISON EMPLOYEES SENTENCED

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that three former employees of the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners have been sentenced in federal court, in separate and unrelated cases, for providing inmates with prohibited objects and for possession of marijuana.

* **Seth Michael Cooper**, 26, of Everton, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England on Thursday to two years of probation, including 50 hours of community service.

* **Jared Petree**, 29, of Cassville, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England on Thursday to one year of probation and a fine of \$1,000.

On Aug. 1, 2005, **Cooper** and **Petree** each pleaded guilty to providing tobacco to inmates at the federal medical facility in Springfield.

Cooper worked as a correctional officer at the federal prison facility from Sept. 21, 2003, until he resigned on Oct. 8, 2004. **Petree** supervised inmates doing welding in the prison shop from October 2002 until he resigned on March 20, 2004.

The U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield is a correctional facility for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Graves explained, and acts as the main medical treatment facility for male prisoners in the federal penal system. All tobacco use has been prohibited at the facility since Nov. 1, 2003.

Cooper admitted that he agreed to provide an inmate with 10 bags of tobacco for \$1,000, or \$100 per bag. **Cooper** smuggled eight bags of tobacco into the prison facility, which he provided to the inmate, and received the \$750 payment by mail.

Petree admitted that he sold 10 to 12 pouches of tobacco to inmates, who intended to sell it within the prison to other inmates, on three or four occasions. **Petree** received \$4,000 from the brother of one of the inmates.

* **Callie Anne Presley**, 27, of Willard, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England on Thursday to three years of probation and a fine of \$1,000.

On July 5, 2005, **Presley** pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana. **Presley**, who worked as a nursing assistant at the federal medical facility, admitted that she was in possession of marijuana on June 27, 2003, in Greene County, Mo.

These cases were prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Michael A. Jones. It was investigated by the Department of Justice - Office of Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow